

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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SUBJECT: ALLEGED DENIAL OF ADMISSION TO SAIGON CONSULAR SECTION

1. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS DEPARTMENTAL QUERIES RE DENIAL OF ADMISSION OF VISA APPLICANTS TO CONSULAR SECTION.
2. THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION AND THE STEPS TAKEN TO COPE WITH IT SHOULD ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. EVERY MORNING, IMMEDIATELY AFTER CURFEW ENDS, LARGE CROWD GATHERS IN FRONT OF GATE LEADING TO CONSULAR SECTION. THERE IS NO ORDER OR DISCIPLINE AND EVERYONE TRIES TO PRESS FORWARD TO BE THE FIRST ADMITTED. MOST PERSONS IN CROWD HAVE NO REASON FOR BEING THERE. THEY ARE NOT BENEFICIARIES OF PETITIONS AND HAVE NO BASIS FOR QUALIFYING UNDER PAROLE CRITERIA. THEY THERE IN DESPERATE HOPE WE CAN DO SOMETHING FOR THEM AND MERELY WISH TO TALK WITH CONSULAR OFFICER ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES. INTERVIEWING SUCH PERSONS WOULD BRING VISA AND PAROLE PROCESSING TO COMPLETE HALT.
3. TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEM POLICE HAVE KEPT IMMEDIATE AREA AROUND ENTRANCE CLEAR. CONSULAR STAFF MEMBERS GO INTO STREET TO DETERMINE WHO HAS LEGITIMATE BUSINESS WITH US. PERSONS WITH NOTIFICATION FROM US OF RECEIPT OF PETITION OR BEARING

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LETTERS OR TELEGRAMS FROM PETITIONER SAYING PETITION HAS BEEN

FILED, ARE LED INTO CONSULAR SECTION THROUGH BACK GATE. (UNTIL SHORTAGE OF BUSES AND DRIVERS CAUGHT UP WITH US WE LOADED SUCH PERSONS ABOARD BUS AT FRONT DOOR AND TOOK THEM AROUND COMPOUND TO BRING THEM IN FROM THE REAR). METHOD PRESENTLY EMPLOYED KEEPS CONSULAR SECTION FULL WITH LONG WAITING LINE SITTING OUTSIDE BUILDING. IT INEVITABLE THAT SOMEONE WITH LEGITIMATE REASON FOR COMING IN WILL BE OVERLOOKED WHEN HE FIRST CALLS OR THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO INCLUDE HIM IN TOTAL NUMBER FOR DAY'S PROCESSING, BUT HE IS CERTAIN TO BE INCLUDED IN FOLLOWING OR DAY AFTER'S GROUP. NO ONE RPT NO ONE WITH LEGITIMATE REASON FOR COMING IN IS BEING TURNED AWAY. IT SIMPLY THAT WE CANNOT HANDLE SIMULTANEOUSLY THE EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE NUMBER PERSONS INVOLVED.

4. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON COMPLETION OF DOCUMENTATION PEOPLE ARE TAKEN BY BUS TO TAN SON NHUT AND THERE ENTER THE E&E PROCESSING AND DEPARTURE SYSTEM FOR VARIOUS DESTINATIONS IN THE PACIFIC AREA. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THEY DO NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO NOTIFY THEIR US RESIDENT RELATIVES OF DEPARTURE AND ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE A CHANCE TO DO SO UNTIL ARRIVAL AT GUAM, WAKE OR WHATEVER OTHER DESTINATION POINTS MAY BE DESIGNATED BY WASHINGTON.

5. PLEASE SEE ALSO SAIGON 5644 INTEREST CONGRESSMAN MORGAN. AS OF TODAY WE HAVE SEVEN LOCALS DOING NOTHING BUT INDEX TELEGRAMS RE PETITION APPROVALS. THE NUMBER OF SUCH TELEGRAMS RECEIVED SO ENORMOUS WE STILL MANY DAYS BEHIND IN INDEXING THEM. VIETNAMESE NAME SYSTEM AND FACT THAT OFTEN DOZEN OR MORE UNRELATED PERSONS NAMED IN ONE TELEGRAM IS COMPLICATING AND SLOWING SYSTEM. ADDITIONALLY, RECENT AUTHORITY TO ALL POSTS TO APPROVE PETITIONS BEHALF OF VIETNAMESE HAS RESULTED IN NEW CASCADE TELEGRAMS. FOR EXAMPLE, DACCA ALONE HAS SENT ONE TELEGRAM FOR SOME THIRTY PETITION APPROVALS COVERING VARIETY OF CATEGORIES. THIS TELEGRAM MUST BE COPIED TWENTY-NINE TIMES AND EACH COPY INDEXED IF WE ARE TO FIND IT SUBSEQUENTLY AND RELATE IT TO THE BENEFICIARY. IN P5 CASES WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED BECAUSE THE TELEGRAM NAMES ONLY THE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARY. IF THAT PERSON MARRIED, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PETITION WILL COVER AN AVERAGE SEVEN ADDITIONAL DERIVATIVE BENEFICIARIES. IN SHORT, EVEN WITH TREMENDOUSLY AUGMENTED STAFF (WHICH IMPOSSIBLE GIVEN CURRENT WASHINGTON PRESSURE TO REDUCE RATHER THAN INCREASE PERSONNEL) WE COULD NOT KEEP UP WITH RAPIDLY INCREASING NUMBER BENEFICIARIES. IN CONSEQUENCE, MANY PERSONS WHO SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY ADMITTED FOR DOCUMENTATION WILL ENCOUNTER SAME DELAY.

6. YOU MIGHT ALSO ANSWER CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES BY SAYING
THAT THE INTENSE CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE TO REDUCE STAFF TO
BARE MINIMUM HAS BEEN PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO DELAYS
BEING ENCOUNTERED.
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